

Petra Bank liquidators push drive to collect successful court claims

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A public notice served on a defunct London-based firm to pay JD 3.76 million to a committee liquidating Petra Bank is only a legal requirement with little prospect for collecting the money, given the fact that the company has "disappeared," a key official said on Tuesday.

Bassam Attari, a senior member of the government-appointed committee liquidating Petra Bank, once Jordan's second-largest commercial bank, said the committee had rung up for more than JD 17 million dinars in cases it won against Ahmad Chalabi and members of his family.

Petra Bank ran into serious trouble in 1989, prompting the government's Economic Security Committee to take it over. Dr. Chalabi, an Iraqi who founded and ran the bank as what many experts describe as a one-man operation, fled the country. So did all other members of his family and close associates.

The government pumped in more than JD 200 million to protect depositors' interest and managed the institution until April 1990, when it ordered the bank liquidated.

Dr. Chalabi and 15 others — mostly Chalabi family members — were tried in absentia and found guilty of embezzling the bank's funds and speculating in the national currency. They were sentenced to prison terms and heavy fines.

The liquidation committee released an advertisement in the local media on Tuesday serving notice on SCF Company of London to pay an outstanding due of JD 3.7

million.

"We hereby give you final warning to settle (the amount) within 30 days (from May 31, 1994). Otherwise we shall regrettably take all necessary legal procedures to collect the rights of Petra Bank," it said.

Mr. Attari told the Jordan Times that the committee had found that the SCF Company was "under the full control" of Ahmad Chalabi before it "disappeared" a few days after Petra Bank was ordered liquidated.

"Our London lawyers advised us that (SCF Company) had no offices, no address and no telephone number," said Mr. Attari, adding that the firm was operated by Hussein Chalabi, a cousin of Ahmad Chalabi.

Mr. Attari said the committee had a total of 37 cases against Dr. Chalabi and his family members, relatives and close associates who figured high in the spurious operations that led to the collapse of Petra Bank.

He said the committee had won 13 cases. "Judgements in other cases are not final yet," he said.

Dr. Chalabi is believed to be living in London, from where he is playing out the self-assumed role of an Iraqi dissident opposed to the government of President Saddam Hussein.

He is on the 17-member leadership council of the Iraqi National Congress and is believed to be the main man behind the regular issuance of press releases and statements on behalf of the congress.

Other members of the Chalabi family are scattered around the world. Some are believed to be living in Europe, some in the Far East



Ahmad Chalabi

and others in the United States.

Earlier reports said the Jordanian government had approached the Paris-based International Police Organisation (Interpol) seeking the arrest and extradition of the convicts in the Petra Bank case. But, according to experts in international law, extradition is not possible without the consent of the host government and it was almost impossible to get any of the Chalabis extradited based on the ruling of the State Security Court, a military tribunal.

Those two firms have also gone bust, with no legal trace of its former operators.

The report of the investigating committee has also been introduced as part of other civil lawsuits filed by the liquidation committee.

Asked how the committee intended to collect its claims, given that none of the defendants are present in Jordan and their whereabouts are "unknown" in most cases, Mr. Attari said: "We have our own means and ways, but prefer not to make any public comment on the issue."

tribunal found that the Iraqi banker had embezzled from Petra Bank.

Ali Sarraf, who headed the foreign exchange operations of Petra Bank, was also given a similar jail sentence and others were handed down stiff jail terms. All of them were tried in absentia.

The liquidating committee's successful claim against SCF Company was the sole court ruling against that particular firm among the many European and Middle East-based companies which operated under the direct or indirect control of Dr. Chalabi.

Mr. Attari, who served as general manager of Petra Bank between the time it was taken over by the government and ordered liquidated, said that the committee left the door open for other lawsuits as and if warranted.

Two Geneva-based banking institutions with extensive operations in Lebanon were the leading "front companies" for Dr. Chalabi, according to the findings of an inquiry committee of experts whose report was one of the key elements in the trial of Dr. Chalabi and others by the State Security Court more than two years ago.

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Slovenia opens consulate in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister Lojze Peterle Tuesday opened a consulate for Slovenia in Amman and held a reception at the Amman Marriott Hotel to celebrate the occasion. Issa Murad, honorary consul of Slovenia in Jordan told the Jordan Times that the move would pave the ground for raising the level of diplomatic representation to the embassy level at a later stage.

Mr. Peterle, who arrived Tuesday in Amman met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan to discuss relations and prospects for economic, scientific and trade relations.

Mr. Peterle was quoted by the Jordan News Agency Petra, as saying that his country appreciates Jordan's constructive and active role in the Middle East peace process.

Slovenia is concerned with promoting relations with Jordan because the country was



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday meets with visiting Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister Lojze Peterle who arrived at the head of a delegation for talks on promoting trade and economic cooperation (Petra photo)

one of the first to recognise Slovenia following the break-up of former Yugoslavia, said Mr. Peterle who is accompanied by an official delegation.

Expressing his pleasure at visiting Jordan, Mr. Peterle said he hoped he would discuss with Industry and Trade

Minister Rima Khalaf prospects for economic and trade cooperation before he leaves the country for home Wednesday.

It is hoped that the consulate, located on Mecca Street, would soon be transformed into an embassy to further boost bilateral ties he

said.

Mr. Murad, as well as Mr. Al Hassan and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Hadid, were among the Jordanian officials to welcome Mr. Peterle and his delegation upon his arrival in Amman.

vice president of the operations control centre, and transferred Fathi Salem to the finance department to assume his new duties as assistant vice president for accounts.

Mr. Balqaz decided to attach Alia Gateway Hotel, the duty free shop, the RI supply section training centre, Royal Tours, Alia Hospitality Services and the passengers' boutique to the investments department.

Ghassan Ali was named deputy vice president of finance and Majdi Sahri as deputy vice president of marketing and sales.

Samer Majali was named vice president of airport and in-flight services, and Ihsan Naghawi as assistant vice president of planning. Mr. Balqaz also named captain George Matta as assistant

continuing commitment to achieving further scientific knowledge and its strenuous endeavours to acquire the latest in the field of science and technology.

He added that Japanese assistance to Jordan aims generally at bolstering the socio-economic development process in the country.

Hani Mulki, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and RSS president, pointed to Jordanian-Japanese cooperation as playing a key role in developing Jordanian expertise and enhancing the country's role and its contribution to the field of science and technology.

Three long-term courses entitled "Senior Programmer" and three others entitled "System Engineering" have so far been held with the participation of 127 trainees.

The centre aims at introducing and developing computer technology, following up the new developments in this field and training manpower in the field of computer and short-term training courses in order to contribute to the socio-economic development of Jordan.

It was supplied with modern equipment, advanced main-frame and micro computer sets, and necessary software to enable it to carry out its duties at the national and pan-Arab levels.

The centre began last year to organise advanced training courses for Jordanian and Arab specialists and technicians.

Continued on page 2

including several from Syria, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen and Mauritania.

Attending Tuesday's ceremony, which marked the formal handing over of the centre's operations to Jordan, were Ikeda Yuji, the Japanese ambassador in Amman, the representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Amman, and several guests.

Mr. Yuji addressed the gathering saying that the project symbolises the close and long-lasting cooperation and friendship between Jordan and Japan. Praising RSS's technical and manpower capabilities, Mr. Yuji said that this stems from RSS's

action in a specific environment, she added.

Moreover, Ms. Murad said, UNESCO will coordinate joint actions, facilitate contact among network members, help to identify possible sources of aid and funding, and compile and help to circulate information.

"UNESCO's ultimate objective is to see the network operate smoothly and be fully independent of the organisation," said Ms. Murad.

She urged all involved individuals and organisations to contact the Ministry of Education with proposals for discussion at future UNESCO meetings on this topic.

Senior RJ executives reshuffled

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier on Tuesday announced major changes involving senior RJ staff.

Under the changes, made by RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Al Balqaz, Nader Al Dahabi was appointed first deputy chief executive officer.

Mr. Dahabi retained his direct supervisory responsibility for the engineering and maintenance department and

ments, and Musa Anz as vice-president of management control.

Ghassan Ali was named deputy vice president of finance and Majdi Sahri as deputy vice president of marketing and sales.

Samer Majali was named vice president of airport and in-flight services, and Ihsan Naghawi as assistant vice president of planning. Mr. Balqaz also named captain George Matta as assistant

Ceremony marks completion of RSS-JICA project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceremony was held Tuesday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) marking the completion of the RSS Computer Technology Development and Training Centre Project which was established through cooperation between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), RSS and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (JCST), an RSS statement said.

The centre began last year to organise advanced training courses for Jordanian and Arab specialists and technicians.

Three long-term courses entitled "Senior Programmer" and three others entitled "System Engineering" have so far been held with the participation of 127 trainees.

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CDD rescues trapped youth

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After being trapped between rocks for more than four hours in steep valley, a 17-year-old youth Tuesday was rescued by a Civil Defence Department (CDD) team.

According to Captain Abdul Ra'ouf Ma'ayah, the CDD was notified at approximately 6 p.m. Monday evening that a youth was trapped in a valley in Al Skiemeh town near Baqaa.

Capt. Ma'ayah told the Jordan Times that the rescue operation began at about 8 p.m. and lasted till 3 a.m., the next day.

"It was a troublesome task because it was at night and it was difficult for the CDD

team to reach the area where the youth was trapped," Capt. Ma'ayah said.

He added that the rescue team used ropes to cross the 400-metre distance to reach the trapped boy.

"We were contacted by the police department who advised us to wait until next day to save the youth by helicopter, but we decided that we could go on using our equipment," he added.

The boy, Ashraf M. Adwan, had gone hunting for birds with some of his friends in that area. While reaching for a bird's nest, he slipped between the rocks, the report said.

All nine injured in the brawl were listed in fair to good condition.

Police said they detained the rest pending further investigation into the case.

French gifts of music

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ageless songs, distinguished charm and genuine French spirit will be the gifts Adrienne will bring with her this week from France to entertain audience in Jordan.

The celebrated pianist, Roger Pouly, will accompany her graceful singing.

Opening the French week at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Adrienne will give two concerts; on Thursday and Friday. The musical event is presented by Air France and the French Cultural Centre in Amman.

Far from modern, ephemeral trends, ignoring pale imitations of Anglo-Saxon rock music that the French airwaves too often carry, Adrienne's songs belong to the admirable repertoire of stylish French music with themes that never die.

Her interpretation, on her last compact disc (CD), of standards like "Les feuilles mortes," "Que reste-t-il de nos amours" or "Syracuse" in addition to her own compositions, brings a fresh breeze of pure French poetry, perfectly channelled by her soft, weightless, well-harmonized voice.

Roger Pouly is a star by himself, having released several CDs of superb



Adrienne
"piano-har" instrumental music.
The Adrienne and Roger

Pouly duo is a living, musical demonstration of French savoir-faire.

Experts study projects to preserve Petra

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra, Jordan's main tourist attraction and most valuable archaeological site, is in need of protection and preservation if its magnificence is to survive.

Without naming the tribes involved, the report said, the fight started when the sheep belonging to five shepherds grazed from a fodder that belonged to a group of seven shepherds.

The argument turned into a first fight and nine people were taken to hospitals.

All nine injured in the brawl were listed in fair to good condition.

Police said they detained the rest pending further investigation into the case.

(PHC) saying that "it is high time for the government to start moving" in the direction of developing Petra as the "centre of a touristic circular movement in the country."

Dr. Abu Ayyash said that the development of Petra should go hand in hand with protecting it from national environmental threats.

Saying that approximately 3,000 tourists visit the ancient city daily, a master plan to handle issues of infrastructure of hotels, roads and parking areas is being drawn by the government.

He also stressed the advantages and disadvantages of excavations, exploration as well as restoration of the rose-red city.

He said that many considerations have to be studied before embarking on any tourist attraction activities — mainly the preservation of Petra's cultural heritage.

Abd Al Ilah Abu Ayyash, assistant of the secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, discussed the objectives and activities of the ministry's Petra Higher Committee

rising interest of the private sector to invest in the touristic area. "We expect the establishment of 19 hotels by the year 1997," said Dr. Abu Ayyash, saying that JD35 million are currently invested in the trade.

Talal Akashah, of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), explained the scientific and technological aspects of protecting Petra.

He questioned the advantages and disadvantages of excavations, exploration as well as restoration of the rose-red city.

He said that many considerations have to be studied before embarking on any tourist attraction activities — mainly the preservation of Petra's cultural heritage.

Dr. Akashah said that the HCST has been involved in documentation of Petra's monuments and assessing the damage of wind and water

erosion on them in order to "keep tap on evolving weathering processes."

The German and Japanese governments are involved in projects in Petra whereby training is provided for students of archaeology at Irbid's Yarmouk University by German experts, while the Japanese government has a research team involved in geochemical documentation of the rocks of Petra, according to Dr. Akashah.

The eight-member team has evaluated the seriousness of water-caused soil erosion in the site. The experts are also working on introducing a plan for developing Wadi Mousa to make it more touristically oriented, Ms. Paolini said.

After discussing the numerous projects taking place at Petra and their impact on the area, the panel, concluded its session by stressing the need for cooperation between the various parties concerned to successfully achieve their common priority, which is the development and preservation of the ancient city of Petra.

ICARDA to start 2-day workshop on natural resources management

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Specialists today will start a two-day workshop on biodiversity and natural resources management in the Near East region.

Organised by ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) at the Amman Marriott Hotel, the workshop will bring together delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey to discuss ways of protecting the environment guided by recommendations passed by the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, according to Dr. Haddad.

He said the meeting is organised in conjunction with the International Plan Genetic Resource Institute and will focus on ways to ensure sustainable agricultural and rural development and methods of dealing with drought and the management of land sustainability.

It is hoped, he said, that the delegates and ICARDA will reach agreement on a defined proposal to initiate the project for the best interest of the countries in the Near East.

Dr. Haddad told the Jordan Times that the workshop, which will be attended by ICARDA Director General Nasrat Fadda along with ten senior scientists from the centre, is expected to work out details of a proposal to be presented to donor nations for financing nature-safeguard programmes in the

Near East.

In the meeting, which will be opened by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif, the delegates are also expected to discuss ways of protecting the environment guided by recommendations passed by the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, according to Dr. Haddad.

One such Mashreq project is being conducted in Morocco and another in Syria, Iraq and Jordan, Dr. Haddad said.

He added that the five-year project in Syria, Iraq and Jordan will be completed this year and ICARDA is planning a renewed mandate in the three Arab states.

Through this project ICARDA is providing expertise for agricultural activities and for training national staff, and it has been transferring technology to farmers and sheep owners.

Last week, said Dr. Haddad, a 10-member group representing experts and officials from Iran, Syria, and Jordan visited ICARDA projects in Morocco and familiarised themselves with the progress of work on farmlands and food production programmes as well as other relevant activities conducted under ICARDA supervision and help.

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States jostle for site, head of new trade body

GENEVA (R) — Germany is making a formal — if seemingly doomed — bid to win the site of the World Trade Organization (WTO) from Switzerland, and candidates are proliferating for the post of chief of the new body.

Diplomats said the jostling was part of a complicated chess match among major and minor powers over the future of key international organizations which has to reach a dialogue within the

next few weeks.

Leadership of the European Union (EU) and the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are also involved in the bargaining alongside the WTO.

Countries ranging from Brazil and New Zealand to Canada, Belgium and Italy as well as Britain, the Netherlands and Mexico are caught up in the diplomatic "swap shop" on who gets what.

Trade sources said the German application for the WTO seat was expected by Wednesday's deadline at the Geneva headquarters of GATT, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade which is to be absorbed by the WTO next year.

According to several senior GATT envoys, the bid to shift the WTO to Bonn, where dozens of government buildings will be left empty when the German capital be-

gins its move to Berlin in 1996, has almost no chance of success.

Although Economics Minister Guenther Rexrodt insists the bid is a serious one, German officials acknowledge they have little hope of success.

"Fairness dictates that our offer for the WTO should be considered, but ultimately no one really believes that they will move from Geneva," said one.

However, the emergence of Bonn as a challenger to Geneva's vaunted "international city" status has brought into the open mounting discontent among diplomats and other foreign residents over restrictions imposed by the Swiss authorities.

This has been coupled with a growing feeling that the Swiss people, if not the government, have little commitment to an international role for their country — reaffirmed in a weekend referendum "no" to providing

troops for the United Nations.

"I think there is no doubt that in the end we will decide to stay here," said one top envoy in Geneva, seat of GATT since its creation in 1948, of several U.N. agencies and of the U.N.'s European headquarters — although the Swiss people have twice voted not to join the world body.

"But this will be largely because of the costs involved in moving, particularly for the poorer countries who will have to maintain a strong presence at the WTO," he added.

Switzerland's own offer on conditions for the WTO, which will have wider powers than the GATT and enjoy equal standing with the Washington-based World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, was submitted late last month.

Although it has remained confidential, it is widely believed to meet many of the

terms laid down by GATT chief Peter Sutherland for building rental, a new conference centre and better treatment for its staff and their families.

A decision is expected by the end of July, although it may not be until late in the year that the 120-plus countries in the GATT will decide who takes over from Mr. Sutherland, a tough former Irish attorney-general.

In recent days, Mexico's President Carlos Salinas has let it be known he would be interested in the WTO post — joining Brazil's Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero and EU-backed former Italian Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero in the race.

New Zealand, an active player in international trade politics and a possible compromise between developing countries and the EU, has two potential candidates — present Trade Minister Philip Burdon and his predecessor and one-time Prime Minister Michael Moore.

Russia to sell off bankrupt enterprises

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia plans to sell its failed enterprises to the highest bidder in a final attempt to save loss-making businesses and avert mass unemployment caused by factory closures, the head of a new government agency on bankruptcy has said.

The scheme unveiled by Sergei Belyaev, head of the Federal Bankruptcy Department, has received President Boris Yeltsin's approval in a decree that allows the sale of debt-ridden enterprises.

Experts also stress that the move will help resolve the problem of inter-enterprise debt, which has reached gigantic proportions since the collapse of the command economy and has forced the central bank into issuing fresh credits.

Mr. Yeltsin's chief economic adviser, Alexander Litvinov, warned last month that failure to solve the inter-enterprise debt problem would lead to the "Ukrainization of the Russian economy" — a reference to the hyper-inflation that has racked the economy of neighbouring Ukraine.

closure or sale under the new scheme.

The measure is viewed as a key move towards enforcing the country's dormant bankruptcy law, which has not been applied due to the government's concern that factory closures would provoke mass unemployment and social unrest.

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Mitsubishi Heavy and Hitachi Zosen suffer profit declines

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Hitachi Zosen Corp. have announced declines in consolidated earnings for the year to March but their parent company profits would improve this year.

Mitsubishi Heavy, the country's biggest shipbuilder, defence contractor and nuclear power plant concern, said its net earnings dived 15 per cent from a year earlier to 1.7 billion yen (\$1.13 billion).

Sales slipped 1.4 per cent to 1.74 billion yen, depressed by lower revenue from non-ferrous except power generation, which were flat. Mitsubishi Heavy offered a 10 per cent interest for this year and parent company earnings, which totalled 15.3 billion yen, are expected to stage a partial recovery to 130 billion yen. Parent sales, which grew 2.3 per cent to 2,435 billion yen, are expected to rise to 2,500 billion yen.

Hitachi Zosen, the heavy engineering affiliate of Sanwa Bank Ltd., said its consolidated pre-tax profit fell 0.8 per cent to 24.4 billion yen despite a 17.1 per cent increase in group sales to 525 billion yen.

Group forecasts for the current year were available but parent company earnings, which grew 25 per cent to 32 billion yen in the latest year, were forecast to rise to 23 billion yen. Parent sales, which were up 12.4 per cent to 403 billion yen, were projected to climb to 420 billion yen.

"Although some people are saying the economy is recovering, forecasts that the prolonged sluggishness will continue for some time due to structural problems in the Japanese economy," Hitachi Zosen said in a statement.

For the year just ended, Mitsubishi Heavy said revenue from its shipbuilding and steel structure operations

edged down 0.1 per cent to 448 billion yen while power systems revenue was flat at 683 billion yen.

Machinery sales dived 6.2

per cent to 517 billion yen and revenue from aircraft and special vehicles such as tanks fell 0.2 per cent to 456 billion yen. Sales of general machinery and components along with airconditioning and refrigeration systems dropped 3.2 per cent to 331 billion yen.

Hitachi's revenue from shipbuilding and the construction of steel structures fell 0.4 per cent in 167 billion yen. But sales of machinery and prime movers grew 5.7 per cent to 56 billion yen and revenue from industrial plant and environmental equipment jumped 22.7 per cent to 155 billion yen.

Other sales, including revenue from biochemicals, new materials and electronic control equipment, jumped 19 per cent to 25 billion yen.

wanted men.

"We want Israel to grant us amnesty now that there is peace."

He said they were all members of the Black Panthers, the armed wing of Fatah in the West Bank, and had all halted their activities with the Sept. 13 signing of the declaration of principles by Israel and the PLO in Washington.

But, he said he and Mr. Subeih were among 19 still wanted by Israel after another 32 — charged with less serious crimes — were granted amnesty.

Ziyad Wawi said he and Burhan Subeih came into Jericho three days ago, following a steady stream of 17 other wanted men into the area who had come in pairs over the last month.

"We came to Jericho because with the Palestinian authority here, it is now safe," Mr. Wawi said, adding the men had got the green light from the PLO leadership in Tunis before coming out here.

He said the officials, members of the liaison committee with Israel which monitors security in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, were not authorised to sign.

"We came partly to push to have one question raised again with the Israelis," Mr. Wawi, 24, told AFP, speaking on behalf of the other

"We don't want to stay here, we don't want Jericho to become a haven for prisoners and wanted men."

The PLO has sacked officials who signed a compromise deal confining Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel to the self-rule enclave of Jericho, a Palestinian official said on Tuesday.

He said the officials, members of the liaison committee with Israel which monitors security in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, were not authorised to sign.

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Hong Kong's impossible dream: A humble home

HONG KONG (APP) — The figures are mind-boggling as they glow off of banker Cindy Yip's computer screen.

For a 20-year mortgage on an 825-square-foot (74-square-metre) middle-class apartment in today's teeming Hong Kong, expect to pay a staggering 23,304 Hong Kong dollars (\$3,015) a month, for 20 years.

Worse still, the bank will only lend half of what it thinks the value of the flat is. You will have to cough up the rest yourself, if you are lucky enough to have saved enough.

"Then there's the rates, the solicitors' fees and commission for the property agent," notes Ms. Yip, a customer service officer at a local bank. "For a lot of people in Hong Kong, it's a real burden."

Such a burden that hundreds of thousands of college graduates, newly-weds and young families here are having to put aside any hope of owning their own home any time soon.

The agency did not give a figure for 1992 profits and company officials were not immediately available for comment.

Oman Aviation's income in 1993 was up 12 per cent to 24.1 million riyals (\$62.6 mil-

dollar pegged to its U.S. counterpart, at a time when Washington is keeping interest rates low.

So while Hong Kong inflation remains at a relatively high eight per cent or so, interest rates are stuck much lower — for a bank account, a nearly 2.5 per cent.

"If I put money in the bank I'd lose," said Alex Wong, group general manager of L and D Associates, the territory's biggest property agents.

"But if I put my money in property and let it out, I can get four to five per cent rental return — and 30 to 40 per cent in capital gains," he pointed out.

Mr. Wong says there are two kinds of property investors.

The first are people who first bought property 10 or 12 years ago, and who have since seen the value of their houses increase so much that they can afford to buy a bigger, better flat.

The second are those who have given up steady white-collar jobs for more lucrative

sales jobs that pay hefty commissions — for instance, property agents.

For half of Hong Kong's six million people, the housing crisis does not exist, they live in government-subsidised public housing estates, often paying rents in the area of \$1,000 dollars (\$130) a month.

Older units are so cramped that they are popularly known as "pigeon holes," but the fast-growing number of newer ones if private would easily rent for 10 times the government price.

Those with the big problem are Hong Kong's middle class, better known locally as "the sandwich class." They

earn too much to qualify for public housing, but too little for a down payment or mortgage.

They can rent, but that too is not easy. For that same 825 square foot apartment, the monthly rent is likely to be 20,000 dollars (\$2,590) — about the same as a junior manager's income in a trading company.

Leaving Hong Kong altogether is another option. Fewer fears about life after 1997 remain the prime reason Hong Kongers are still emigrating at a rate of 1,000 a week, the high cost of living has become a powerful new incentive.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

An excellent day for you to extend your boundaries far beyond there present limitations as you make constructive plans to gain your goals and become more alert to what is going on around you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

This is a good day for accomplishing a great deal of assignments. Show others you have many talents. Strive to be successful in your endeavours.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Use your intuition, which is accurate now, in handling financial affairs. Think along optimistic lines on how to get your duties done.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

The right day to handle important matters of the past as well as current ones. Don't take risks when dealing with others you are associated with.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Plan how to be more successful in the future. The planets are now favourable for a successful endeavour which you are now involved in.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Be sure to complete any tasks left undone before taking on new assignments. Take time to study subjects that can be helpful to you in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Know what your personal wishes are and how best to gain them. This can

be a particularly fine day for you to get those projects completed.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Await a better time for looking into new outlets for new endeavours. Be wise.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Support persons who have been loyal to you in the past. Be more supportive of the one you love. Express happiness and joy to this person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Study your money situation and make plans to have more financial security especially in tough times. Handle credit affairs well.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Have conferences with higher-ups and gain their backing and goodwill. Take time to improve your appearance for those close to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

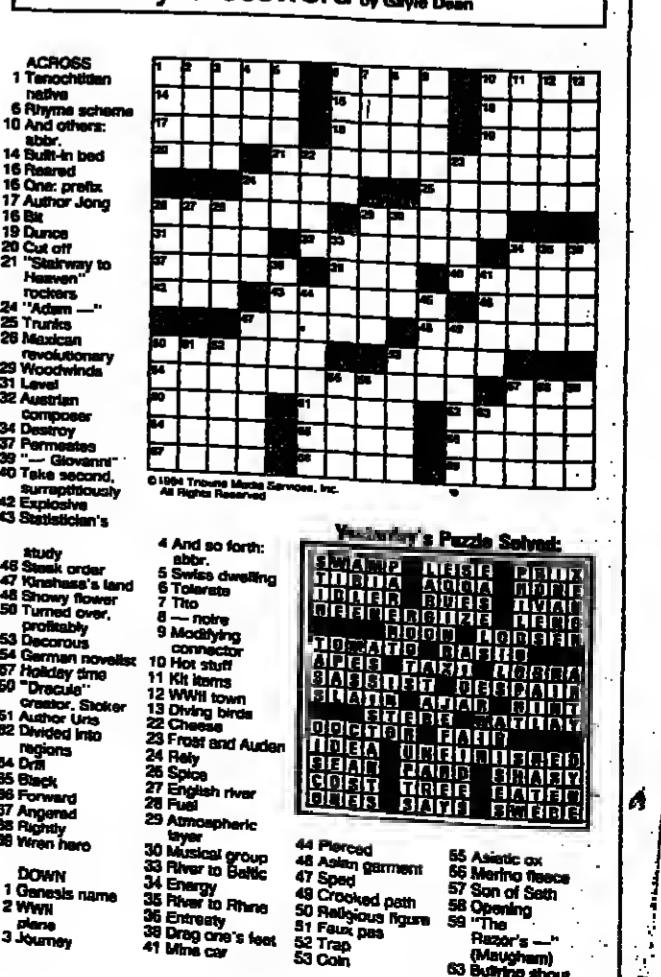
Use more modern methods and get better results. A financial expert can give advice for a plan you have in mind to be more productive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

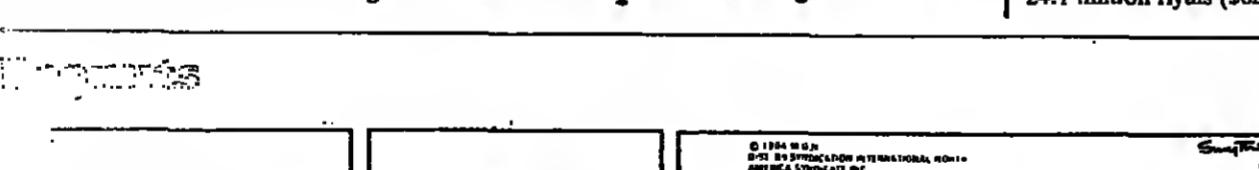
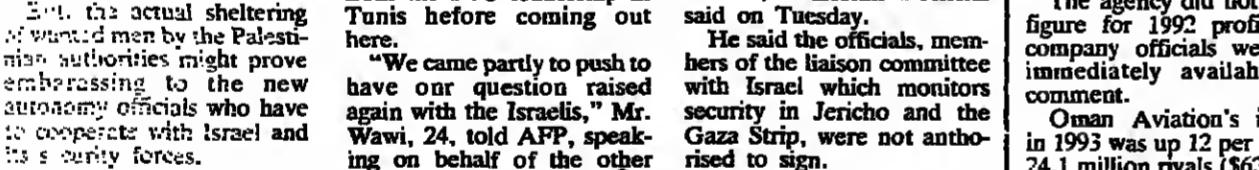
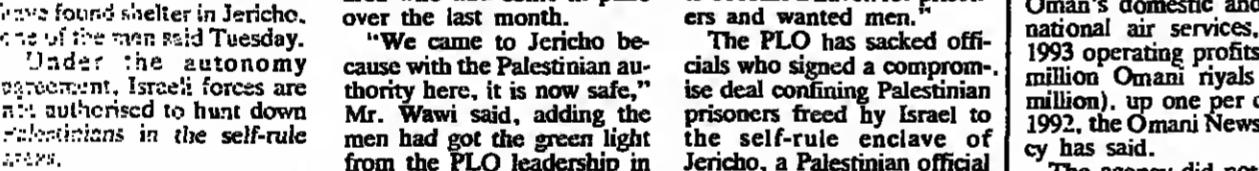
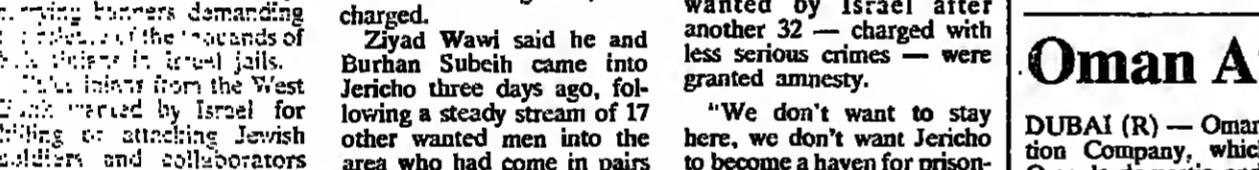
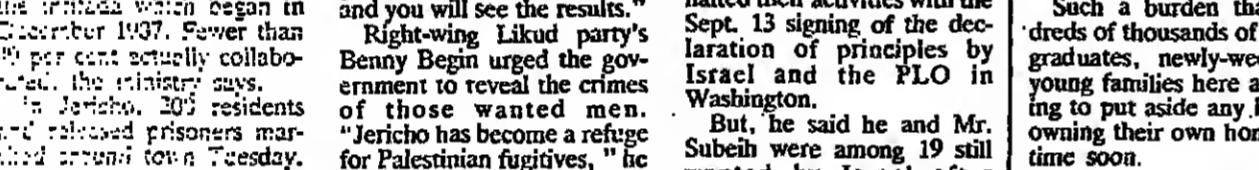
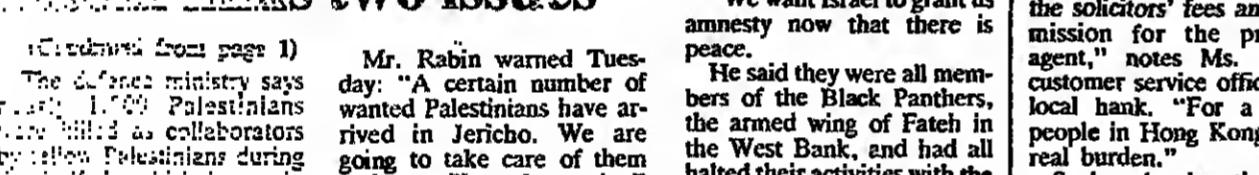
Talk over mutual affairs with associates and make the future brighter. Handle important business matters wisely so you can get ahead.

THE Daily Crossword

By Gayle Dean



Cartoon Caps



Economy

Turkish stocks face bumpy ride — analysts

ISTANBUL (R) — Shares face a bumpy ride on the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) this year but long-term prospects are good, brokers and analysts said.

After a year of spectacular rallies, the ISE's composite index has plunged 43 per cent since January, standing at 16,536.39 Tuesday.

Brokers see further falls in share prices, as listed companies are expected to suffer from a five-month-old crisis.

"Over the next months, we may see things getting worse before they get any better," Nicholas Bratt, managing director of Scudder, Stevens Clark, told a Euromoney conference in Istanbul.

"In the long term fundamental quality of certain Turkish companies are good, but we can't say much about the short-term," he said.

Automotive plants and durable goods makers have slashed thousands of jobs and almost halted production.

Recession is likely to spread into other sectors in coming months and many firms are expected to default on bank loans due in June.

Extreme volatility in interest rates and the Turkish lira since January have made it difficult for investors to predict the short-term outlook of the share market.

The economic crisis, the worst in the republic's 70-year history, has seen the lira seesawing between 15,000 and 40,000 per dollar and interest rates soaring above 500 per cent.

Many investors shifted their savings to the treasury's high-yielding three-month notes, known as "super T-Bills," which carry an annual compounded return of 406 per cent. The treasury is expected to continue borrowing at high rates this year.

Market capitalisation has dropped to \$10.9 billion in April from \$37.5 billion in 1993, compared with \$9.9 billion in 1992. The traded value halved to \$12 billion in five months.

But for Hakan Ferhatoglu, chairman of Meksa Securities, Turkey will eventually regain its role as the darling of emerging market investors.

"But Turkey must first introduce inflation accounting, amend capital markets law and promote institutional investments," he told the Euro-money conference in Istanbul.

Mr. Ferhatoglu cited the necessity to remove the 10 per cent daily price margins, improve protection for investors and introduce closed-end institutional funds and real estate trusts.

Special tax incentives boosted equity funds last year but they were also blamed for accelerating the market's plunge as the funds swifly pulled out of stocks.

Mina Toksoz, from the Economics Intelligence Unit, said risks for foreign investors were associated with the Islamic gains in the local elections, economic restructuring related to a planned customs union with the EU and the implementation of bold austerity measures which Turkey announced on April 5.

The good news is that prices have become very cheap and privatisation seems to be going through. Many state-sector shares earmarked for a sell-off are in for a sharp rise.

"The road is hard but long-term rewards are plenty," said Mehmet Sami, assistant general manager at ATA Securities.

The stock exchange is also trying its best to attract more foreign capital. Settlement will be extended to two days from one by end-June and trading hours will double to four hours.

The exchange will move to new premises and plans to complete the installation of computer trading by the end of next year. Aril Seren, vice chairman of the exchange, said:

"Listed companies are potentially very profitable, efficient and productive, but they now face a recession and 30-40 per cent of their capacity lies idle," Mr. Seren said.

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Currency	Date 15/6/94	Date 14/6/94
Sterling Pound	1.5210	1.5245
Deutsche Mark	1.6457	1.6443
Swiss Franc	1.3807	1.3850
French Franc	5.0120	5.0055*
Japanese Yen	102.50	102.88
European Currency Unit	1.1725	1.1730*

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.3100	4.3500	5.1900	
Sterling Pound	4.7500	4.8100	5.1500	5.7500
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.7500	4.7500	4.7500
Swiss Franc	3.9400	4.0000	4.1300	4.2500
French Franc	5.2500	5.3100	5.3600	5.4000
Japanese Yen	1.8000	1.8600	2.0000	2.2500
European Currency Unit	5.7500	5.7500	5.7500	5.9000

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Russia tells Bosnian Serbs to give up land, warns U.S.

SARAJEVO (R) — Russia's foreign minister, backing an international initiative to end the war in Bosnia, warned Bosnian Serbs Tuesday to give up conquered land or risk losing support from Moscow.

Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman held talks in Sarajevo with Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic over a possible confederation of their states.

"If you choose peace, you can count on the most decisive support from Russia," Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Moscow.

"But I want to warn you. There is also another choice, which we think leads to war. You cannot control 70 per cent of territory by force as you do now," Mr. Tudjman said.

Mr. Kozyrev's warning comes as Western and Russian diplomats are putting pressure on the Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government to accept their proposal to divide the country in a compromise partition.

The major powers' plan calls for giving the Serbs 49 per cent of Bosnia and the rest to Muslims and Croats.

But neither side has endorsed the 51-49 split and Serb leaders, whose forces control 70 per cent of the country, say the proposed

peace map ignores Serb interests.

Mr. Tudjman arrived in Sarajevo Tuesday for his first official visit to the war-torn capital, and held talks with Mr. Izetbegovic over the newly formed Bosnian Federation and its possible confederation with Croatia.

Mr. Tudjman's one-day visit underlined the improvement in Muslim-Croat relations since the United States helped broker a common federal state between the former foes, ending a 10-month war for territory in central Bosnia.

Although fighting has mostly subsided between Serbs and Muslim-led army forces due to a temporary one-month ceasefire, the relative calm was marred by inter-Muslim clashes in the northwestern enclave of Pecigrad.

The mostly Muslim Bosnian government army in the past few days has advanced against rebel forces loyal to breakaway Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, a United Nations spokesman said.

"Despite bad weather the fifth corps retained its pressure on Abdic forces," U.N. commander Eric Chaperon said Tuesday.

U.N. military sources said they were fearful nearby Serbs would intervene in the inter-Muslim fighting.

Mr. Abdic split with the

Bosnian government in Sarajevo last summer over his willingness to negotiate with the Serbs.

Muslim-led army advances were reported late Monday after the U.N. commander in Bosnia said he was encouraged by the initial success of the three-day old truce, despite reports of sporadic clashes between Muslims and Serbs.

"I have been encouraged generally by the decreasing levels of fighting," said Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose in Sarajevo.

Fighting inside the Bihać pocket began Saturday, the day after the U.N.-brokered truce, which Mr. Abdic did not sign, came into effect.

Bosnian army Fifth Corps soldiers captured 30 kilometres of ground and two companies of Mr. Abdic's forces Monday, the sources said, with troops loyal to Sarajevo advancing up a main road to the town of Pecigrad.

Two Serb tanks from the Krajina region were reported to be shelling Bosnian army territory on Mr. Abdic's behalf, the U.N. said, adding to fears of wider Serb involvement in the clashes.

The Bihać pocket is surrounded by Serb forces but there has been no fighting along the external confrontation line since the Geneva truce became effective.

U.S. European and Russian diplomats hope the temporary truce will provide momentum for negotiations on a final peace settlement. Diplomats from the international "contact group" are scheduled to meet later this week to prepare a final proposal to present to the warring factions.

Russia warned the United States on Tuesday that a unilateral withdrawal from a U.N. arms embargo in Bosnia could revive international confrontation of even lead to another world war.

Mr. Kozyrev used the opportunity of a meeting with Mr. Karadzic to blast U.S. legislators, for recent decisions, aimed at opening the way for arms supplies to Muslim forces in the former Yugoslav republic.

If American legislators try such steps in favour of the (Muslims) it would create a new political situation... It is definitely a way to a new world war," Mr. Kozyrev said in the presence of reporters as he welcomed Mr. Karadzic to Moscow.

The U.S. House of Representatives, following the example of the Senate, voted last week to order President Bill Clinton to lift the embargo, declared by the United Nations on all former Yugoslav republics in September 1991.

The West has long worried



Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei (AFP photo)

that the strong support, including arms supplies, Bosnian Serbs receive from their ethnic kin in neighbouring rump Yugoslavia, breaks the balance of powers and leaves the Muslims at an obvious disadvantage.

Mr. Clinton told the House in a letter that any U.S. action to lift the embargo would end the Bosnian peace process.

"If one great power or both start supporting their clients it would bring the world back to the worst years of the cold war," Mr. Kozyrev said.

Western attitudes towards the Serbs in former Yugoslavia have frequently annoyed Russia, which has close historic and religious ties with Serbia.

Russia expressed its anger earlier this year when NATO issued an ultimatum to Serb forces, which besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Russia accused the West of making the decision without consulting Moscow. The incident caused a delay in Russia's joining NATO's programme "partnership for peace," especially designed for ex-Soviet republics and former Soviet block states.

Russia's conservative parliament last month passed a non-binding resolution urging President Boris Yeltsin to consider pulling out of U.N. economic sanctions

against Serbs.

Giving Mr. Karadzic, a poet, a non-government literary award and inviting him to Russia is widely viewed as a demonstration of support for Serbs by Russia's influential nationalist groupings.

Mr. Kozyrev made clear in his letter that any U.S. action to lift the embargo would end the Bosnian peace process.

He said Russia would not unilaterally lift sanctions against Serbs unless this was accompanied by clear moves towards peace.

"We would not take unilateral steps which were not linked to peaceful settlements," he said.

Policeman fined for 'cuffing' youth on ear

LONDON (R) — Outraged British newspapers offered Tuesday to pay the legal costs of a policeman who was fined £100 (\$150) for giving an unruly youth an "old-fashioned cuff on the ear." A magistrate court in western England also ordered Steve Guscott, 42, a police officer for 20 years, to pay the 14-year-old £50 (\$75) compensation. The teenager complained to police after Mr. Guscott slapped him on the head. Mr. Guscott had been called to disperse a rowdy gang of teenagers in Minehead, southwest England, last March. "It was not more than chastisement of a child. It was certainly not premeditated," Mr. Guscott's lawyer Ian Wilson said. "They should be giving him a medal, not a fine," said the Daily Star newspaper, offering to pay his fines for him.

Sri Lanka applies brakes on elephant sales

COLOMBO (AFP) — President Dingiri Bandara Wijetunga has moved to discourage the sale of elephants by Buddhist temples, which receive the animals as gifts from the state, a government newspaper said Monday.

Temples were selling off the elephants at about \$20,000 each and asking the government for replacements from the state orphanage for elephants, the evening Observer said. The practice is likely to stop, with Mr. Wijetunga ordering that baby

elephants should be given only to temples that are in a financial position to feed the animals, the newspaper said. Elephants are reared in Sri Lanka and are decorated and paraded at Buddhist temple ceremonies. The elephant population in Sri Lanka is believed to be dwindling as many animals are slaughtered by farmers. Ninety-four wild elephants were slaughtered in the island last year, according to wildlife enthusiasts. The current elephant population is estimated at between 2,000 and 2,500.

Naked performance artist, onlookers arrested in Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing police detained 11 people, including a German engineer, who attended a naked art performance, and were still holding two of the artists Monday, witnesses said. About a dozen plainclothes and uniformed police raided the home of artist Ma Liuming Sunday, the witnesses said on condition that their names not be used. Ma, 25, had just completed an exhibition of

works tipped as likely successors include Massimo D'Alema, the PDS number-two man, and Walter Veltroni, the editor of the leftist daily L'Unità.

Mr. Veltroni, 40, has refused to discuss the matter but said in an editorial Tuesday that the left must renew its image with new ideas if it wants to be considered seriously by voters.

Other press reports were more direct. Eugenio Scalfari, editor of the daily La Repubblica, wrote that if the PDS appointed as its new leader Mr. D'Alema, a man who suffers from a humourless public image, then Mr. Occhetto as leader and who should be his successor.

Massimo Cacciari, the philosopher mayor of Venice and former deputy, fired the first volley recently by suggesting that the opposition set up its own structured shadow government that could challenge the right.

He added that the PDS must realise that it needs a "leader capable of regrouping all the centre-left opposition, as Mr. Berlusconi managed to do with the Italian centre-right."

But Mr. Cacciari, who broke with the communists 10 years ago, is considered an outsider within the opposition and is unlikely to succeed.

Indonesia urged to improve human rights record in East Timor

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian parliamentary committee has called on the government to respect human rights in East Timor and allow international monitoring groups into the territory, press reports said Tuesday.

"Efforts to solve once and for all the East Timor issue should at least mean a fundamental improvement and restoration of human rights in East Timor," said the Jakarta Post daily citing a report of the inter-parliamentary cooperation committee read in parliament Monday.

The report, read by native East Timorese legislator Salvador Ximenes Soares, also urged the government to pay more attention to the aspirations of local leaders in East Timor rather than to foreign opinion.

Mr. Soares said that invitations to visit East Timor should not be limited to United Nations and Portuguese officials but open to international organisations, including Amnesty International and Asia Watch. The two groups are among leading critics of Indonesia's human rights record in East Timor.

He said that direct dialogue with such non-governmental organisations could reduce the existing difference in perception and understanding of Indonesia's human rights policies.

Foreign affairs spokesman Irwan Abidin said Tuesday that U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture and Extrajudicial Execution, Bacre Waly N'Diaye of Senegal, is expected to visit East Timor in July. A date has yet to be set, he said.

Mr. Soares said the parliamentary committee also called on Jakarta to continue efforts to determine the fate of 56 people unaccounted for since Indonesian troops opened fire on a pro-independence demonstration

in Indonesia's human rights record in East Timor.

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The society, headed by Sigma Huda, wife of Information Minister Nazmul Huda, also asked the government to withdraw warrants of arrest issued against two other Janakantha journalists.

As police search nationwide for the author whose comments have infuriated Islamic clerics, her family is receiving phone calls by people threatening to kill them.

"We are receiving anonymous death threats by phone every night... We are consulting lawyers," a family member of Nasreen said Monday.

"Our phone is perhaps being hacked," the woman at Ms. Nasreen's house in Dhaka said in a telephone interview.

She spoke on condition of anonymity, saying she was too afraid to give her name. Ms. Nasreen shares a ninth-floor apartment in downtown Dhaka with her sister and her family.

The Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights on Tuesday protested

their arrest, saying the move was against freedom of the press and human rights.

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"We are receiving anonymous death threats by phone every night... We are consulting lawyers," a family member of Nasreen said Monday.

"Our phone is perhaps being hacked," the woman at Ms. Nasreen's house in Dhaka said in a telephone interview.

She spoke on condition of anonymity, saying she was too afraid to give her name. Ms. Nasreen shares a ninth-

floor apartment in downtown Dhaka with her sister and her family.

The Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights on Tuesday protested

their arrest, saying the move was against freedom of the press and human rights.

The society, headed by Sigma Huda, wife of Information Minister Nazmul Huda, also asked the government to withdraw warrants of arrest issued against two other Janakantha journalists.

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Sacchi says it is time to play good soccer

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. (AP) — Time has come for Italy to play good soccer for 90 minutes, after showing samples of its potential in recent warmup matches.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi said Monday that Italy's opening World Cup game against Ireland will give clear indications on whether the "Azzurri" can produce a steady quality of play and earn a top spot in the one-month competition.

Italy, which has won three titles in 1934, 1938 and 1982, is rated among the top contenders in the upcoming edition.

"The field will give us the answers. The game will say if we can play at good levels throughout if we succeed, we will earn victory (against Ireland) and the belief that we can go far away in the World Cup," the Italian coach said at the Pingu School, Italy's training camp.

Italy takes on Ireland at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford Saturday in its first game of a preliminary round also including Norway and Mexico.

Sacchi was critical of Italy's recent unimpressive performances against Switzerland and Costa Rica.

Both games — in Rome before the team departure for the United States and in New Haven, Conn., Saturday — ended with 1-0 wins, on goals by striker Giuseppe Signori. However, the Italian team play was dull in the first 45 minutes and the midfield often erratic.

The team certainly has some problems, the play was not of top quality. We can't be satisfied with 15-20 minutes of good play per game and can't think to earn praise



for that. We must improve. The match with Ireland will be a decisive test," Sacchi said.

The coach said he'll announce the lineup on the eve of Saturday's match, thus avoiding fuel controversies about the possible use of Danièle Massaro in place of Dino Baggio — no relation with the team star-forward Roberto Baggio.

Massaro's inclusion in the second half with Costa Rica noticeably improved Italy's play and helped a more offensive attitude by Roberto Baggio and Signori.

Dino Baggio was sidelined (by knee cap surgery) this year and is paying for his long inactivity. I keep him in great esteem. He is not yet in peak form, but other (Italian) players are not in their best form, too," the coach said.

Massaro, a 33-year-old veteran forward of AC Milan, scored a streak of decisive goals in league and champions cup matches this year, helping Milan powerhouse to score an unprecedented double triumph in the same-season.

Sacchi said Italian players were growing a "normal, positive pressure" for the game with Ireland.

"Many of them have learned to stand it in international games with their clubs... Certainly the Irish players

are tense, too. It's a very important game, awarding three points and a good start in the tournament," Sacchi said.

Newly-enforced World Cup rules provide three points for each victory, and one for a draw, in preliminary rounds.

Sacchi said he hoped that the new system "would force all teams to play for a win, rather than for a draw."

Ireland is a team with a great fighting spirit, which greatly improved in the last four years, after reaching the quarterfinals in Italy (in the 1990 World Cup). It's a reality in world soccer and is extremely dangerous for its aggressive play.

"They like long passes and headers. We must not accept to play Irish style, we must impose the Italian way of quick, short passes for overcoming a tough opponent," Sacchi explained.

AC Milan's key defender Paolo Maldini, who did not play against Costa Rica following a pulled right thigh muscle, was likely to resume full-time training Wednesday and be fit for Saturday's match.

Roberto Baggio, the 1993 world best player, still was nursing a light right achilles tendon inflammation but team doctors said he was improving day after day.

Gaetano Castrovilli, who may transfer from Sampdoria to Internazionale of Milan soon after the World Cup, said he was happy with the lack of fans pressure in U.S. training sites.

"Many Americans clearly do not know us... But this is a good condition for preparing for the cup. I like it," Pagliuca said.



GERMANS ARRIVE: German team captain Lothar Matthäus arrives with his team at O'Hare Airport in Chicago Monday for the upcoming 1994 World Cup. Germany will open the World Cup June 17 against Bolivia at Soldier Field (AFP photo)

World Cup on course to turn a profit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — With \$750 million in revenue guaranteed, sponsorship deals have met half of the 1994 World Cup budget of \$1.5 billion.

"We have already met our objectives," World Cup spokesman John Griffin said.

He estimated the Cup, which starts June 17 in nine cities across America, would realize a surplus of \$25 million.

To make the most of its sources of revenue, the organizing committee instituted several levels of sponsorship.

Eleven multinational corporations paid between \$10 and \$20 million to join the elite group of official sponsors. FIFA, football's governing body, will pocket all the revenues from this category.

Sponsors are counting on a cumulative audience of 32 billion for the 52 matches although their main target is the non-U.S. market.

"Soccer is the universal

language. If you set out to

match a global brand with a global sport, there is no better choice," said a spokesman for Gillette, which has the longest history of World Cup sponsorship among U.S. companies.

Coca-Cola, a World Cup sponsor since 1978, is also focusing its promotions on the non-American market.

Gary Hart, Coke's vice president in charge of international sports marketing, admitted they were not primarily attracted because the competition was taking place in the United States.

"We bought into it because it is such a magnificent global event," he said.

The credit card company Mastercard will spend about \$75 million on sponsorship and advertising during the tournament.

"We have targeted the World Cup as a platform to help us build brand awareness internationally," said Mava Heffler, vice president

of advertising operations.

Both Mastercard and McDonald's will broadcast global television commercials — using the same ads on every continent.

General Motors plan to differentiate their advertising messages by match, using the advertising boards that surround the pitch.

During matches of interest in Europe and South East Asia, GM will advertise Opel. For games involving Latin American teams GM will plug Chevrolet.

Eight firms are "marketing partners." They paid \$7 million each for the right to use the World Cup logo. These companies are focusing mainly on the U.S. market, but they also hope to raise their profiles overseas.

All revenues from this category go to World Cup USA.

The eight manufacturers of "official products" paid \$2.5 million apiece and are targeting the 16 million regis-

tered soccer players in the United States and their families, a market estimated to be between 40 and 50 million.

There are 15 equipment suppliers, who furnish the organizing committee with \$1 million worth of goods and services in exchange for advertising space.

The "regional partners," banks and companies that operate locally in the United States, paid \$250,000 each for advertising rights at the various sites.

Finally, 100 firms have bought the right to manufacture "related products" such as T-shirts, key chains and video cassettes bearing the official logo. Sales of such items are expected to reach \$400 million.

Revenues from the last four categories will be shared equally by FIFA and World Cup USA.

The organizing committee has also signed a \$100 million broadcast globally during the competition.

Spike Lee adopts Indomitable Lions

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — American filmmaker Spike Lee, long known as a basketball fanatic, has turned soccer supporter for the World Cup, with special affection for the African teams.

Lee, whose court-side antics on behalf of the New York Knicks have enlivened this season's National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs, hosted a benefit for financially-strapped finalists Cameroon Friday that was expected to generate more than \$50,000.

But Lee said he would not limit his interest to behind the scenes support.

"I definitely want to make the Brazil-Cameroun game," he said. "I don't think they'll allow me to be close to the field, it's different than with the Knicks."

Lee, whose films include the racially charged "Do the Right Thing," "Jungle Fever" and "Malcolm X," said he hoped the U.S. black community would back Cameroon and the other African finalists.

"I'm trying to get the African-American community behind African teams," he said. "I've seen the way the Italian and Irish communities have embraced their teams. I've seen 2,000 fans at the airport to greet the Italian team," he said.

Much has been made of the contributions of ethnic communities to football in the United States, but Lee said most black Americans were relative newcomers to the game.

"I hope this brings awareness," he said. "Soccer is the world's most popular sport. It's an opportunity to get introduced."

Lee said the sports heroes of his youth were basketball players like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Julius Erving and Magic Johnson, while the feats of Pele were unknown to him.

That ugly American sport'

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Like most Europeans, Norwegian national soccer team coach Egil Olsen thinks of the game he has devoted his life to as "football." So what would he call American football? "Awful," he said Monday about the once saw at Giants Stadium in New Jersey. Olsen had gone to inspect the stadium where his team will play two of its three games in this month's first round of the World Cup soccer tournament. While there he had the chance to watch U.S. professional football players face off on the line of scrimmage. "They'd play for 9 seconds and then stop. It was awful. It was so boring. It was definitely not what was the worst thing about it," said Olsen. "They called it football," he said.

Reporters-security battle is under investigation

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — FIFA have ordered an inquiry into a battle between Brazilian soccer reporters and security guards Sunday.

"We are waiting for a full report," FIFA spokesman Stefano Pucci said Monday.

Post-match interviews degenerated into a free-for-all between journalists and guards after Brazil beat El Salvador 4-0 in a World Cup warm-up match in Fresno, California.

"It was waiting to talk to Brazil when a guard grabbed me by the elbow," said Globo television reporter Tino Marcos.

"I pulled my elbow away

and then he punched me in the stomach. Suddenly dozens of my colleagues started kicking the guard from behind."

Security men and police officers called in to guard the dressing room door said they had been given orders not to allow any interviews.

However, the Brazilian journalists said the ban did not extend to interviews outside the dressing room.

"There are always problems at the beginning of any World Cup," Pucci added.

It was Brazil's last warm-up before their opening match in San Francisco on June 20 against Russia.

Reclusive Russians prepare for Brazil

SANTA CRUZ, California (AFP) — Russia are keeping a low profile as their 1994 World Cup opener against favourites Brazil approaches.

Security was tight around the Chaminade Conference Centre where the Russians are staying, the training sessions at Cabrillo College are closed to fans and media.

"We want peace and quiet," said team administrator Nikita Simonyan. "We don't want reporters or fans bothering us while we prepare for this important opening match."

Russia is playing in the World Cup for the first time, though Russians were the backbone of the old Soviet Union sides.

Their hopes were dimmed slightly by a players' revolt against manager Pavel Sadrygin, though in fact only four of the original 15 rebels returned to join the World Cup squad.

Despite their tough group, which also includes Cameroon and Sweden, the Russians are cautiously optimistic.

The match against Brazil, in San Francisco June 20, will be key, and Simonyan said his team may benefit from the pressure placed on the South Americans.

"First matches are always very tough to play and some outsiders have beaten favourites in the past," he said.

"No one should underestimate us," said forward Sergei Yurkin. "We can manage at least a draw against Brazil."

Information about the properties and instructions for interested buyers may be obtained by delivering a letter of interest to Mr. Joseph Higgins, Counselor for Administration at the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan not later than July 5, 1994.

All letters of interest must be submitted by and in the name of the bidders themselves or their legally authorized representatives (if they are a registered legal entity). Proof of agency may be required from any agent at any time.

The U.S. Embassy will not pay any fees, commissions or expenses to real estate agents, brokers or middlemen of any sort or to any persons who ever have, they may be.

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Vacant possession of the properties is expected to be provided on or about August 25, 1994.

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polo player had wielded undisputed power in deciding how and where football was played since 1974.

But cracks started to appear in the facade when the European football union's 65-year-old Swedish president Lennart Johansson hinted he might stand in the FIFA elections.

Havelange appeared to be losing his grip when he clacked Pele from the World Cup extravaganza in Las Vegas last November when the draw for this year's finals was made.

The FIFA chief was furious when the world's best-known player should ignore his warnings and sue his son-in-law, Brazilian soccer confederation chief Ricardo Teixeira, for graft.

Pele and Argentina's wayward star Diego Maradona are probably the only two soccer stars American sports fans know.

The Europeans, who already have 13 finalists, have suggested Africa, Asia and CONCACAF go from two to three each. Oceania gets a guaranteed place and South America four.

They also suggest the hosts but not the holders qualify automatically and that the four remaining places go to

their differences.

Havelange was in Trinidad making sure he got the vote of CONCACAF President Jack Warner when the FIFA president's job came up for election.

Warner gave Havelange his backing on condition the Caribbean and North American countries got an extra place in the 1998 World Cup.

Trips to Kuala Lumpur and Tunis, where extra places were exchanged for pledges of support, secured the Asian and African bloc votes.

The European challenge faded in and suddenly everybody was happy to allow Havelange run for a sixth term which will enable him to retire in 1998 when, coincidentally, Johansson's UEFA post expires.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994 11

NEWS IN BRIEF

Curry's medals to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — The three gold medals won by the late British figure skater John Curry in 1976 will be sold at Sotheby's auction house next month to raise money for his widowed mother. The medals, from the European championships, Olympic games and world championships, were consigned to auction by Curry before his death from an AIDS related illness April 15. The proceeds from the sale, to be estimated around £10,000 (\$15,000), will be used "according to Curry's wish which was to benefit his family and in particular his widowed mother," a statement from Sotheby's said. "John lost a terrible amount of money," 70-year-old Ruth Curry told the Daily Mail. "We had no savings, no investments." Curry, 44, was the first Briton to win an Olympic figure skating title.

Walker rejoins Celtic

GLASGOW, Scotland (AFP) — Andy Walker rejoined Celtic here Monday, just two years after quitting the club to join Bolton in England. The 29-year-old striker signed a three-year contract at Parkhead. The fee has yet to be decided between the clubs. Walker, an FA Cup hero for Bolton over the past two seasons, is currently out of contract. Walker said: "I have been back to see Celtic play a few times but I did not think I would be back as a player. It has always been the club closest to my heart and I always looked for their result. My plan would be to be part of a Celtic side that is back winning trophies and leagues soon." Tottenham defender Colin Calderwood has also arrived at Celtic Park for transfer talks with Macari.

Holyfield 'better' after healing session

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The three-knockdown rule apparently was not in effect for Evander Holyfield during a Christian healing session. In fact, Holyfield felt so good after the service that he is considering a return to boxing. Holyfield dropped to a stage three times Friday night and proclaimed himself ready to resume his career. The former heavyweight champion, who retired in April because of what doctors call a stiff heart, said he had "a warm feeling" go through his chest after faith healer Benny Hinn touched him. "I was searching for a reason to come back, but the right reason," Holyfield said. "I know I can go back and win, but win for the Lord. I'm healed."

Jaskula out of Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Polish rider Zenon Jaskula, third in the Tour de France last year, will not take part in this year's race after the team line-up was announced Tuesday. Twenty-one teams and 189 riders will be at the start July 2 at Lille — but Jaskula's Monaco-based team Jolly were not included in the starters. Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc said: "We regret losing him but he and his team have done nothing this year to justify taking part." Jaskula failed to finish both the Tour of Spain and Tour of Italy this season. The best represented country is Italy with eight teams, followed by France's four entrants and three from Spain.

IAAF axes indoor walk races

PARIS (AFP) — Indoor race walking has been axed by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), it was announced Tuesday. A meeting of the IAAF council at Monaco led to the decision, which split out that indoor walking had little public support. The meeting also rubber-stamped decisions that the 1998 World Cup would be staged in Johannesburg, with Cape Town hosting the 1994 World Cross Country Championships.

Courier, Stich advance in straight-set victories at Halle

HALLE, Germany (AP) — Jim Courier and Michael Stich marched to easy victories Monday in first round matches at the Halle Grand Prix — a tournament that serves as a final tuneup before Wimbledon. Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion and top seed, needed only one break in each set to oust Venezuela's Nicolas Pereira 6-3, 6-4 in just 73 minutes. Courier, seeded third, downed Rodolphe Gilbert of France, 6-4, 6-4. Fourth-seeded Cedric Pioline of France and No. 5 Marc Rosset of Switzerland also won easily, while No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia struggled past France's Olivier Delaître 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-3.

Boli set for Glasgow Rangers

MARSEILLE (AFP) — Olympique Marseille defender Basile Boli is set to sign for Glasgow Rangers, it was revealed here Tuesday. Marseille said their French international was contacted by the Scottish champions Monday and is expected to fly to Glasgow for a medical before signing. Rangers are reported to have offered £2.7 million (\$4 million) for Boli, who headed the only goal in Marseille's European Cup win over AC Milan last year. Lazio, the other contender for Boli's signature, have been hesitating over whether to go ahead with the transfer.

Mansell mystery goes on

LONDON (AP) — The Nigel Mansell mystery deepened Monday after Williams-Renault denied they were about to meet the former Formula One world champion for secret talks. Mansell, who quit Williams after winning the 1992 crown and defected to Indy Car racing, is currently in England and has been linked with a return to the team following the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola last month. But Williams Renault spokesman Ann Bradshaw said: "At this moment, Nigel Mansell has nothing arranged with Williams-Renault and we have no details about his trip."

Mansell, who won the Indy car crown last year in his debut season, is reportedly in England for family reasons but speculation has been growing he would contact Williams-Renault at their Didcot headquarters near Oxford for negotiations.



Judge: No shortened prison sentence for Mike Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A judge Monday refused to free former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, turning aside supporters' arguments that he has grown up since being imprisoned for the rape of a teen-age beauty pageant contestant.

Tyson, who refuses to apologise or admit he committed a crime, appeared in superior court to ask judge Patricia J. Gifford that his six-year sentence be reduced to the 26 months he has already served.

With time off for good behaviour, Tyson now is scheduled to be released in May 1995. The Indiana and U.S. supreme courts have refused to hear his appeals.

Gifford said Tyson failed to meet the legal requirement of completing an education programme of a vocational programme.

Tyson was imprisoned after he was convicted of raping teen-age beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington in his hotel room in 1991.

Three witnesses testified Monday that he has improved his attitude and become interested in self-improvement since entering prison.

Under cross examination by deputy prosecutor Mark Sullivan, however, each of the three said they had never heard Tyson admit in raping Washington. He has conceded all along that his sexual encounter was consensual.

In her ruling, the judge said she believed Tyson had begun a rehabilitation. But she said she wanted him to acknowledge that his conduct without even admitting

Phemster testified that when Tyson learned he had

failed the exam, he "mentioned he was going to have to work harder. He was not sulky. He was not bitter. I was impressed with the way he took the news."

Camille Ewald, who had tutored Tyson in prison, said, "I see growing in Mr. Tyson and a sincere desire and love for knowledge."

Sports Illustrated had reported its June 13 issue that

Tyson's lawyers had cut a deal for his early release that include a cash settlement with Ms. Washington.



Mike Tyson

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To these unscrupulous eyes, North's bid of three hearts was an underbid and Atholl's raise to four hearts was a distinct overbid. But then, who are we to quarrel with success?

West led a trump to East's ace and a trump was returned. Declares drew one more trump and the ace was forced. Faced with an almost sure diamond loser, the success of the contract hinged on holding the jack of clubs, forcing declarer to ruff.

Declarer cashed the king and a club, then tried the diamond five. This time the hand held the jack of clubs, forcing declarer to ruff.

The moment of truth had arrived. However, declarer had learned something from the play. East had not bid spades, so declarer knew the hearts, the king of diamonds and jack of clubs. With the ace of spades as well, East might have considered entering the bidding. In any event, declarer elected to play for spades, cashing the ace and leading to the king and the contract called home. West, sitting East, was Dr. Lewis Morris, an MP from Scotland, who last year won the Best Played Hand award for this effort.

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Wimbledon shuffles 'men's seeds'

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) Andre Agassi and Todd Martin were the main beneficiaries Monday when the seedings were announced for Wimbledon.

Agassi, champion two years ago, was seeded no. 12 five places above his world ranking. The flamboyant American has dropped in the rankings due to a long layoff at the start of the year following wrist surgery.

Martin, who beat Pete Sampras Sunday in the final of the Queen's Club tournament, was rewarded with the no. 6 seeding, three spots

above his world ranking.

The top three men's seeds went according to the rankings. Sampras, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg. But from them on, the seedings varied.

Three-time Wimbledon champion Becker's proven grass-court prowess earned him the no. 7 seed, though he is ranked 10th.

Courier, runner-up at Wimbledon last year, was seeded fifth, two places above his ranking. Sampras and Graf were named the top seeds for the tournament, which starts next Monday.

But, while Wimbledon officials stayed with the world rankings for all 16 women's seeds, they departed from the men's list to benefit players such as Agassi, Martin, Boris Becker, Jim Courier and Goran Ivanisevic at the expense of higher-ranked clay court specialists.

Wimbledon is the only one

Sydney Olympic chief says no

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney's Olympic preparations suffered a setback here Tuesday after the man chosen to head the event pulled out at the last minute.

Organising committee president Gary Pemberton, expected to reveal who had been chosen as the 2000 Games chief executive, instead revealed the hitch, adding he was suspected of having offered a salary far too low.

Pemberton said \$295,000 was probably not enough to attract top-calibre candidates.

He revealed the chosen man had withdrawn from the proposed SOCOCOG chief executive offer from his current employer.

Pemberton, chairman of the Australian national airline Qantas as well as the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (SOCOCOG), went on a "seven-figure package" would be paid for the equivalent position in the private sector.

"It does indicate of course that out there in the big wide world there is always a dollar that will buy back someone."

New South Wales state Premier John Fahey said the proposed SOCOCOG chief executive officer had offered "megabucks" to stay with his current employer and the government would not be engaging in a chequered competition to gain his services.

He said: "I don't see there is any loss or any hiccup in the process."

"It does indicate of course that out there in the big wide world there is always a dollar that will buy back someone."

That ugly American sport

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to free German sentenced to death

BONN (AFP) — Iran is to free a German national who had been sentenced to death for spying for Iraq. German authorities said Tuesday as the Iranian foreign minister held talks with his German counterpart. Chancellor Helmut Kohl had appealed for clemency for 59-year-old Helmut Szimkus during a meeting Monday with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who is on a private visit to Bonn. Mr. Szimkus, a mechanical engineer arrested in 1989 and sentenced to death last year, is to be released in the next few weeks and sent back to Germany, officials said. On Tuesday, Mr. Velayati conferred with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, a former BND intelligence agency chief who had given high priority to the Szimkus affair and had even visited the prisoner in jail during a trip to Iran in 1992. The Iranian newspaper Ressalat quoted an informed source as saying the Velayati visit would help "the two countries lift some obstacles in their relations." It did not elaborate.

Sudanese rebels confirm fall of HQ

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sudanese rebels on Tuesday confirmed that government forces had overrun their administrative headquarters in the army's latest advance since it launched a major offensive six months ago. A spokesman for the southern rebels fighting the Khartoum government said the rebels had abandoned their base at Kajo Kaji, near the southern border with Uganda, without offering resistance. "We have decided to change from defence to siege in Kajo Kaji," said Steven Wondu, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Khartoum announced Sunday that its forces had captured the town last week. Mr. Wondu said the rebels were trying to surround the town and cut the government's supply lines.

U.N. suspends relief flights in Angola

HARARE (AFP) — The United Nations relief agency, the World Food Programme, has cancelled all relief flights in Angola after the rebel UNITA's refusal to grant security guarantees for this week, a WFP regional information officer announced Tuesday. Mercedes Sayagues told a news conference here that the blanket suspension, the first this year, was effective from Monday because UNITA did not give it the weekly clearance to fly to the various destinations of the war-torn country. The clearance, done once a week, was supposed to have been granted Friday, so Monday, the WFP decided to cancel all the air lift operations. However, overland deliveries are not affected but these are quite restrictive and account for only one third of the agency's total food aid distribution.

Pakistan denies illegal nuclear transfer

BONN (AFP) — The Pakistani embassy Tuesday dismissed as "rubbish" allegations that some of its diplomats had organised the illegal transfer of nuclear material to Pakistan and accused India of spreading such rumors. In a broadcast aired Monday, the German public television channel ARD reported that a German company had supplied Pakistan with gas ultra-centrifugal parts used to produce enriched uranium as well as sensitive rocket equipment. It charged that the transfer had been coordinated from the Pakistani embassy here and that two Pakistani diplomats had recently been ordered to leave Germany. A ranking embassy diplomat, who asked not to be named, told AFP that it was "unthinkable" that embassy staffers would be involved in such activities which are "against diplomatic norms." Nobody (no Pakistani diplomat) was told to go away, or declared persona non grata." In Islamabad, a foreign ministry spokesman also denied Monday that Pakistani diplomats had been expelled from Germany.

Poli shows Japanese government shaky

TOKYO (AFP) — A majority of members of parliament (MPs), would support a no-confidence motion against the government of Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, although almost as many said they would not and a large number were still undecided, a poll showed Tuesday. The poll by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper June 4-11 covering 475 of the 511 lower house members of parliament found that 179 of them would support a no-confidence motion while 173 said they opposed it and 123 were undecided. Leaders of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have said the party was ready to submit a no-confidence motion against Mr. Hata's minority cabinet as soon as the government's fiscal 1994 budget cleared parliament. The second largest opposition group, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), formerly a member of the coalition government, has also said it might support the motion.

Would-be members attend EU summit

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Four countries which have negotiated to join the European Union (EU) in 1995 are to take part in an EU summit next week as though they were already members, the union said here on Tuesday. The current chairman of the EU's council of foreign ministers, Theodore Pangalos, said the leaders of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden would join the summit on the Greek island of Corfu on Friday next week. Also invited to the summit is President Boris Yeltsin, who is scheduled to sign a partnership and cooperation accord between the EU and Russia.

Ramzi named to head radio and TV

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Council of Ministers on Tuesday announced the appointment of Ihsan Ramzi as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation to succeed Radi AlKhar who resigned earlier this year. Mr. Ramzi had served as director of programmes at Jordan Television and Radio before going to Oman where he was head of the Omani Radio's programmes department. Later he joined the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) and served as its director general until his appointment in Jordan.

Arafat, Rabin and Peres to meet

PARIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and Israel's prime minister and foreign minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, will meet at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO on July 6, officials at the world cultural body said on Tuesday. The three men will attend a ceremony to receive the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Felix Houphouet Boigny Peace Prize for 1993, which they were awarded last September four days after signing an historic peace agreement. French President Francois Mitterrand said on Tuesday that the Israeli and Palestinian people would lose confidence in peace if their leaders did not speed up the implementation of their historic agreement. Mr. Mitterrand was speaking in the presence of the Israeli and PLO negotiators of last year's Oslo peace accord, Uri Savir and Ahmad Qourie (Abu Ala) at a ceremony in which he presented the European of the Year award to Marianne Heilberg, widow of the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johann Jorgen Holst. Mr. Holst and his wife acted for months as secret mediators between Israel and the PLO, hosting talks at their private home and at a government residence outside Oslo to promote last September's accord.

Israeli torture goes on — rights group

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli interrogators continue to torture Palestinians on the occupied West Bank after withdrawing from most of Gaza and Jericho, a human rights group charged Wednesday.

"Both the General Security Services and the Israeli army systematically and severely abuse Palestinians who are being held for interrogation," Human Rights Watch says in a 316-page study.

"Such practices could undermine the Cairo agreement of May 4 which requires Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise their powers 'with due regard to internationally accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law,'" the New York-based body said.

"A remarkable aspect of Israel's ill-treatment of Palestinians under interrogation is the huge number of persons who experience it," said Human Right Watch's Eric Goldstein.

"Most" of several thousands of Palestinians interrogated in the last six years suffered a combination of abuses often over three weeks or more, which are not "isolated excesses but constitute a pattern that could persist only with the acquiescence of the government."

The army is still deeply involved and its interrogators "inflict beatings routinely in combination with methods of abusive body positions and sensory deprivation."

"Israel's two main interrogation agencies in the occu-



A Palestinian policeman tries to hold back chained Palestinian protesters in Jericho demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails (AFP photo)

pied territories engage in a systematic pattern of ill-treatment and torture — according to internationally recognised definitions of the terms — when trying to extract from Palestinian security suspects confessions or information about third parties," the report said.

"This pattern has continued in 1994, despite the peace process now underway."

Asked on Tuesday about the report after Human Rights Watch provided advance copies to journalists, the Israeli general in charge of the West Bank denied physical abuse was routine in interrogation centres.

"Forget it. It is not true. We are doing our best to prevent it and to behave like human beings," Major-General Ilan Biran, chief of Israel's central command,

told a news briefing on the general situation in the Jericho area.

Human Rights Watch called on Washington to say publicly that Israeli practices amount to "systematic torture" and that one of the state bodies involved is the Israeli army, the main beneficiary of \$1.8 billion in annual U.S. military aid.

The United States, the group said, should tell Israel

that future aid levels would depend on palpable progress towards curbing abuses.

"U.S. law prohibits the government from providing military or economic aid to any government that engages in systematic torture," the report said.

Human Rights Watch said uncooperative detainees were subjected to a "coordin-

(Continued on page 9)

Senate, House hold joint session today to thrash out disputed law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament hold a joint session today to discuss and agree on certain disputed clauses and or articles in the revised municipal law and the landlords and tenants law. The Lower House had referred the two laws for the Upper House (Senate) after proposing some amendments.

The Senate met Tuesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and endorsed most of the amendments proposed by the House.

It endorsed an amendment proposed by the Lower House, setting

qualification for contestants for mayoral posts. According to the amendments, contestants for mayoral posts in the centres of governorates should hold a university degree.

Aspirants for such posts at the district level should have a general secondary certificate; at the sub-district levels they should be literate.

The Senate also endorsed an amendment proposed by the House under which elections of mayors will be held simultaneously throughout Jordan during the first half of July 1995.

The amendment authorised the minister of municipal and rural affairs to postpone the elections for a

period of no more than six months if such postponement would serve public interest and the integrity of elections.

However, the two Houses differed for the second time over certain clauses in the two draft laws thus making it constitutionally necessary to hold a joint session, Mr. Lawzi said.

Mr. Lawzi said that the session shall be considered legal if an absolute majority of the Parliament members attend.

The decision reached at the joint session will be valid, provided it is endorsed by a two-third majority of the members present, Mr. Lawzi added.

Defence lawyers took im-

2 journalists fined for violating press law

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The former editor-in-chief of Al Ahali weekly newspaper, Jamil Nimir, and reporter Ramadan Rawashdeh were found guilty Tuesday of violating one article of the Press and Publication Law and were ordered to pay fines amounting to JD 500 each in addition to court costs.

Defence lawyers took immediate steps to appeal the decision, which was taken by Amman's first instance court, Mr. Rawashdeh told the Jordan Times.

The case would now go to the Court of Appeals, which can either uphold or overturn the decision, and later can be heard by the Court of Cassation, the highest legal authority in the Kingdom.

The ruling came after a two-month trial in which Al Ahali newspaper stood accused of violating article 40/A2 of the Press and Publication Law, which was passed by the 11th Parliament and came into effect in the middle of 1993, and article 191 of the penal code.

The first article forbids publications of "news items, drawings or commentaries disparaging the Armed Forces or the security apparatus." Article 191 forbids publications that slander government organisations.

Mr. Nimir and Mr. Rawashdeh had pleaded not guilty to the charges, which are punishable by a maximum fine of JD 1,000 or 500 days imprisonment.

Al Ahli is the mouthpiece of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (Hashd).

is licensed under a provision in the law which allows every registered political party to have its own publication.

Mr. Nimir resigned from his job as chief editor of Al Ahali late last year at the same time when the party was planning to relieve him of his duties for writing articles that the party felt did not serve its interests. The council had nothing to do with the law suit, Mr. Nimir said.

The trial of Mr. Nimir and Mr. Rawashdeh began on April 18, several months after a legal complaint was sent by head of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin to Amman's public prosecutor who in turn pressed charges.

Mr. Amin initiated the case over the newspaper's coverage of a State Security Court trial where 10 men were accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein.

Under the Press and Publications law, several cases have been filed against mainly tabloid and political party weeklies. The judge who heard the Al Ahali case, Mansour Al Hadidi, was recently appointed to handle all legal cases pertaining to press and publications.

The Al Ahali case is the third of its kind.

On May 16 the Jordan Times chief editor and one of its reporters were also sentenced to JD 300 each.

Al Bilad weekly newspaper editor and one of the reporters earlier in May were also sentenced and ordered to pay JD 1,400.

All four have appealed the verdicts.

Kurds say 51 killed in attack

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish faction said on Tuesday that gunmen from a rival group killed 51 people in an attack on a funeral procession in northern Iraq as leaders from the two groups held peace talks in Turkey.

But U.N. sources in Suleimaniyah, where the shooting took place on Monday, put the death toll at just 14 and said the town was quiet on Tuesday.

A statement from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said fighters of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had fired from rooftops at mourners in the centre of Suleimaniyah.

"As a result, 51 persons were instantly killed and over 40 were injured," the state-

ment, issued in Washington, said. "The victims included many women and youngsters."

A London-based representative of the PUK, Latif Rashid, described the KDP account as a "complete fabrication" and accused KDP fighters of killing 12 people and wounding 46.

KDP fighters escorting the procession had fired on PUK supporters in Suleimaniyah without provocation, causing the casualties, he said, adding PUK guerrillas had not fired back.

"I hope this was an isolated incident, not premeditated. If it was planned, the consequences would be very bad," he added.

A spokesman for the U.N.

guards' contingent in Suleimaniyah said: "Only 14 were killed but around 42 were injured."

He had no clear details on precisely what happened but, speaking by telephone from Suleimaniyah, he said Reuters' town was "back to normal" on Tuesday.

The KDP statement said the attack occurred during the funeral for a KDP commander, Osman Kader Munawwer, killed in clashes with the PUK in the Penjwin area a few days ago.

The KDP statement said the attack occurred during the funeral for a KDP commander, Osman Kader Munawwer, killed in clashes with the PUK in the Penjwin area a few days ago.

"The KDP and all those who have been trying to conclude a settlement and reconciliation are shocked at this appalling massacre of innocent civilian mourners by the PUK," it said.

ers were given extra allowances. However, the increases were not expected to bring about any major shift in the way of life for Iraqis, who have seen prices rising several-hundred-fold since the imposition of international sanctions in August 1990.

The tax led to an immediate drying up in the number of Iraqis coming to Jordan.

According to border and airport port statistics, 233,000 Iraqis crossed into Jordan and 245,990 left the Kingdom compared with 570,000 and 585,000 respectively in 1992. It was not known how many of the travellers were officials.

The increase in travel tax came as part of Iraqi moves to restore some order to the chaotic state of its economy and was coupled with incentives to government officials and military personnel.

Government subsidies are the mainstay support for Iraq's 18 million people, whose country is denied its vital oil exports for foreign exchange. However, subsidised food can meet only half of an average family's needs and Iraqis have to turn to the open market, where prices have gone up several-

hundred-fold since the Gulf crisis.

Minister of Trade Mohammad Mehdi Saleh was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the subsidies cover flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, salt and detergents as well as "other needs" of the Iraqis.

The Iraqi government is also offering incentives to encourage farming in the country through subsidised seeds, plants and pesticides, he said.

Government agencies also buy up all grain and agricultural produce and do not allow any private marketing of these items with a view to blocking higher prices in the market, Petra reported.

One of the first acts of President Saddam after taking over the prime ministry was empowering the ruling Baathist Party to crack down on the black market and profiteering traders.

The move led to a temporary rise in the value of the Iraqi dinar. The exchange rate in the Baghdad market was 420 dinars to the dollar last week, but the rate rose to 450 dinars to the greenback

this week, dealers in Amman said.

"People expected Saddam's moves to bring about overnight changes and decline in prices," said an expert on the Iraqi scene. "But when it appeared that the president was trying to manoeuvre around without adding any input to the economy to stabilise the dinar and prices, and traders were continuing to exploit the market, people were disappointed," said the expert, a frequent traveller to Iraq.

According to the expert and other watchers, President Saddam is trying to streamline the economy ahead of the possible easing of the sanctions.

"An easing if not outright lifting of the sanctions appears to be a basic component of the Iraqi leader's strategy," said a western diplomat. "Unless and until Iraq could resume oil exports, there is little chance that the Baghdad government could do anything significant to improve the living standards of its people."

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Princess Royal 'groomed' as consort to future king

LONDON (AFP) — Anne, the Princess Royal, was to receive Britain's highest order of chivalry amid reports she was being groomed as consort for the Prince of Wales when he becomes king. The 43-year-old princess was to be invested by her mother, Queen Elizabeth II, with the Order of the Garter in the Throne Room at Windsor Castle. A report in the Daily Express suggested the honour was part of a secret Buckingham Palace strategy to make Princess Anne a consort for her brother when he ascends the throne without his wife, Princess Diana, at his side. Prince Charles and Princess Diana have been formally separated for a year-and-a-half. The paper said the move was prompted by fears there would soon be no senior royal women to help shoulder the responsibilities of the monarchy. It was reported the consort role would allow the Princess Royal to represent the royal family on an increasing number of occasions. Princess Diana, who was formally separated from her husband in 1992, was also seen as recognition for Princess Anne's public and charitable works. In being invested as Lady of the Garter, she joined the Queen, Queen Mother, Prince of Wales and Duke of Edinburgh among the elite ranks of an order founded by King Edward III.